



**MERRY EDWARDS**  
WINERY AND VINEYARDS  
RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

At home in the Russian River Valley since 1977, Merry Edwards has explored its hills, pockets, slopes and hollows, discovering small sites where choosing the right rootstock, clone and farming techniques can produce exceptional grapes. This led her in 1996 to purchase land in the Sebastopol Hills region of Russian River Valley. Today, winemaker Heidi von der Mehden succeeds Merry's winemaking journey, becoming the only other person to hold that position at Merry Edwards Winery other than Merry herself.

## RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY PINOT NOIR 2021

Sonoma County, United States



**VARIETALS:**

100% PINOT NOIR

**NEW OAK:**

47% NEW FRENCH OAK

**OVERVIEW**

When assembling our Russian River Valley blend, we have the great advantage of choosing from a diverse array of vineyard sites. Since our estate vineyards, from which we make our vineyard-designate wines, dot the Russian River appellation, we are able to choose lots that highlight the best characteristics of our valley. Grapes from the Santa Rosa Plain bring a classic cherry aroma and round mouthfeel. Sebastopol Hills vineyards provide enticing perfume and bright acidity. Laguna Ridge fruit contributes dark berries with rich tannins. We bring all of these elements together to produce a wine that showcases our world-class appellation.

**WINEMAKING**

Fully destemmed, berries are cold-soaked for five days. The 2021 vintage aged in 47% new French oak for nine months, allowing the wine time to rest on the lees, gaining depth and mouthfeel. This regime has led to a Pinot Noir of great balance, foretelling of a long life ahead.

Clones: UCD 37, Dijon 115, 667, 777, and Pommard.

**TASTING NOTES**

The aromas on the nose are red-fruit driven, featuring ripe raspberries and fresh strawberries with a pretty hint of vanilla. On entry, this wine is bright and buoyed by refreshing acidity, and a persistent core of tannins brings elegant texture. Hints of yellow fruit skin and gravel give way to a slightly spicy finish highlighted by notes of blood orange and cherry cola.

**93**  
POINTS  
JAMES SUCKLING.COM

Lots of focused tannins and dark fruits such as cherries and strawberries. Hibiscus. Very clear and precise. Full to medium body. Very fine and clean tannins. Orange peel. Linear and racy finish.

**93**  
POINTS  
THE TASTING PANEL MAGAZINE

Aged nine months in (47% new) French oak and whole berry fermented, this red dispenses aromas of crushed violets, incense, wet stone, and boysenberry. Prickly white pepper perks up notes of plum and mocha. There's a "calmness" on mid-palate with a hint of orange rind, soy sauce, and brushy, dried wildflowers.

**91**  
POINTS  
Wine Spectator

Sports vivid, punchy boysenberry and mulberry fruit, along with a burst of hibiscus throughout, all framed by a sleek, toasty edge that holds sway through the finish. Shows focus and energy, just needs time for the fruit to push through the authoritative wood treatment. Best from 2024 through 2030.

